

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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EO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HA

SUBJECT: BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT

REF: A) STATE 202952 B) STATE 282333

--- SUMMARY: SHIPMENTS FROM HAITI IN CATEGORY 238 (TROUSERS) WERE EMBARGOED ON NOVEMBER 19 WHEN THEY REACHED AMENDED SPECIFIC LIMIT FOR THAT CATEGORY. USG UNABLE TO AGREE TO GOH REQUEST FOR FURTHER INCREASE IN CATEGORY LIMIT. APPEARS LIKELY THAT HAITI HAS ALSO OVERSHIPPED RECENTLY INCREASED LIMIT IN CATEGORY 215 (HOSIERY). USG IMPLEMENTING IMPORT CONTROLS ON 215 TO LIMIT EXTENT OF OVERSHIPMENT, AND IS LIKELY THAT THIS CATEGORY WILL CLOSE NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

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1. ON NOVEMBER 19 DEPT OFFICER INFORMED GOH COMMERCIAL ATTACHE GERVAIS THAT SHIPMENTS IN CATEGORY 238 (MAN-MADE FIBER TROUSERS) HAD REACHED SPECIFIC LIMIT OF 5.6 MILLION SQUARE YARDS EQUIVALENT (SYE). OFFICER NOTED THAT HAITI HAD RIGHT TO REQUEST APPLICATION OF CARRY-FORWARD OF 6 PERCENT TO LIMIT, TO BE CHARGED AGAINST NEXT AGREEMENT YEAR.

2. GERVAIS CALLED ON DEPARTMENT ON NOVEMBER 23 TO REQUEST THAT U.S. CONSIDER FURTHER INCREASE IN CATEGORY 238 LEVEL OF APPROXIMATELY 1.1 MILLION SYE, WITH EQUIVALENT REDUCTION IN CATEGORY 222, IN WHICH HAITI IS SHIPPING ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF ITS QUOTA.

3. DEPT OFFICER STATED THAT IN U.S. BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS, SPECIFIC LIMITS ARE SET ON THE MOST SENSITIVE PRODUCT CATEGORIES, AND ARE NOT NORMALLY AMENDED OVER THE COURSE OF THE AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT AT HAITI'S REQUEST, WE HAD AGREED TO INCREASE CATEGORY LIMIT BY OVER 21 PERCENT (FROM 4.6 TO 5.6 MILLION SYE) LAST SEPTEMBER (REF A) AND THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE USG TO AGREE TO ANY FURTHER CHANGES. WE AGREED TO GET BACK TO GERVAIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. AT NOVEMBER 24 MEETING OF COMMITTEE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS (CITA) AGENCIES DETERMINED USG UNABLE TO AGREE TO GOH REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN CATEGORY 238 LIMIT. GERVAIS WAS INFORMED ON DECISION ON NOVEMBER 26, AND HE SUBSEQUENTLY NOTIFIED DEPT THAT GOH WISHED TO UTILIZE 6 PERCENT CARRY FORWARD, WHICH USG WILL IMPLEMENT AS SOON AS WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF REQUEST IS RECEIVED FROM HAITIAN EMBASSY.

5. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO INFORMED GERVAIS THAT HAITIAN SHIPMENTS IN CATEGORY 215 (HOSIERY) THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 WERE AT 97 PERCENT OF NEW RESTRAINT LEVEL OF 1.4 MILLION SYE (REF B). FIGURES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER IMPORTS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT IT IS PROBABLE THAT HAITI HAS ALREADY OVERSHIPPED AMENDED LEVEL IN THIS CATEGORY. CITA HAS DECIDED TO IMPOSE IMPORT CONTROLS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON CATEGORY 215 TO PREVENT FURTHER OVERSHIPMENTS. TO ALLOW HAITI SOME LEEWAY, CONTROLS ARE BEING IMPOSED AT A LEVEL OF 1.7 MILLION SYE, 300,000 SYE ABOVE THE AGREED CONSULTATION LEVEL. WE ANTICIPATE THAT CATEGORY 215 WILL CLOSE NEXT WEEK WHEN OCTOBER IMPORT FIGURES BECOME AVAILABLE AND ARE REPORTED TO CUSTOMS.

6. WE HAVE INFORMED GERVAIS THAT ITEMS IN CATEGORIES

215 AND 238 WHICH EMBARGOED ITEMS IN CATEGORIES
MAY ENTER AFTER JANUARY 1 AND BE CHARGED TO NEXT
SECOND AGREEMENT YEAR QUOTA, PROVIDED GOH AGREES TO
SUCH CHARGING.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE REPORT USG ACTIONS ON
238 AND 215 TO APPROPRIATE GOH OFFICIALS, AND INFORM
DEPARTMENT IF GOH AGREES TO HAVE EMBARGOED ITEMS ENTER
AFTER JANUARY 1 AND BE CHARGED TO NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA. ROBINSON

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